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Trade and Development Board
Sixty-fifth session, part I
Geneva, 4–12 June 2018
Item 1 (b) of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for part I of the sixty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in chapter I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in chapter II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

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I. Provisional agenda

1. Procedural matters:

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   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

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11. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

12. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

13. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2017–2018 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2018

   (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

   (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

   (d) Review of the calendar of meetings

   (e) Membership of the Working Party

   (f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

14. Provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh executive session of the Trade and Development Board

15. Other business

16. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board was approved on 7 February 2018, at the sixty-sixth executive session of the Board. On 10 April 2018, the extended Bureau of the Board further agreed that part I of the regular session of the Board would run from 4 to 12 June 2018, with its own agenda and meeting report, and part II of the regular session would run from 1 to 4 October 2018 and likewise have its own agenda and meeting report.

Item 1
Procedural matters:

(a) Election of officers

2. The rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board are contained in documents TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

3. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur, i.e. four members from list A (Africa/Asia), four from list B, two from list C and two from list D, as referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.

4. In accordance with the cycle of rotation that has been in operation since the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the President of the Board for the sixty-fifth session will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Asia) and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list B. The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); three from list B; two from list C; and two from list D.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

5. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in chapter I above.

Organization of work

6. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way as to ensure that no two meetings will take place simultaneously. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the conference resources of the United Nations. A detailed programme will be made available in due course.

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials

7. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board will examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

In-session documentation

(d) Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board

8. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this item to a subsequent executive session of the Board.

Item 2
High-level segment

(a) New ways in which the United Nations could address the crisis of multilateralism and trade and its development machinery and what the contribution of UNCTAD would be

9. Multilateralism is under threat and the trading system is in crisis. With some major players opting for economic nationalism, and trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization stalling, the question is how we can ensure that achievement of the ambitious goals set under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is not held back.

10. A new deal for equitable globalization, sustained by a fair and inclusive global economy, is needed. In today's interconnected, deregulated and fast-changing environment, a continued rise economic nationalism promoting protectionist policies would be detrimental, in particular for the weakest and most vulnerable. For trade not to be lost as an enabler for development, the international community needs to work together urgently, in all available forums. Concrete actions on early-harvest issues, such as ending harmful fishery subsidies or doubling the exports of the least developed countries, could be a major catalyst for re-energizing multilateralism.

11. At the meeting, the Board will explore new ways in which the United Nations and its Member States can build bridges on trade and development issues – and how these processes can add value overall, rather than simply being stop-gaps when efforts stall elsewhere. Crises can trigger change. Given this, the issues of what the future holds for a reformed United Nations and its development machinery and what the contribution of UNCTAD would be will be considered.

12. By setting out the core issues, the opening meeting of the high-level segment will also pave the way for the subsequent three meetings.

(b) Industrial policies and productive capacity policies for a digital economy

13. The unprecedented proliferation of digital technologies is rapidly altering socioeconomic landscapes, including production processes, industrial structures, trade patterns and competition. Yet readiness to engage in the evolving digital economy varies greatly, implying unequal opportunities to take advantage of it. Building the capabilities and capacities needed to thrive from electronic commerce (e-commerce) and the digital economy requires a holistic approach to policymaking, addressing areas such as infrastructure, entrepreneurship, innovation, competition, skills development and trade and investment policies, as well as relevant regulatory and legal frameworks.

14. In view of the many opportunities as well as risks that digitalization is bringing, the need for measures and policies to catch up with and harness the development potential of the digital economy – including opportunities in e-commerce and technologies of the fourth industrial revolution will be addressed at the meeting. The links between physical and digital infrastructure and between productive capacity and value chains will be made, and the way the investment patterns of digital firms are changing the game and what cutting-edge developments mean for the future of work will be considered.

15. At the meeting, the Board will also examine issues such as addressing digital divides, enabling small businesses to compete in the digital economy, developing digital skills, adapting legal and regulatory frameworks and scaling up support to developing countries. In particular, it will consider the multilateral and national actions required to ensure that digital transformations reinforce leadership and ownership for sustainable development and result in a fair distribution of benefits.

(c) Plugging financial leakages and mobilizing domestic and international resources to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals

16. Achieving the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development means meeting the challenge of mobilizing domestic and international resources. A major way to achieve this is to stem the array of financial leakages that have also contributed to the perpetuation and expansion of inequalities between nations, notably those in Africa and the least development countries, and the rest of the world, and within nations, including the developed world's "South in the North".

17. At the meeting, the Board will examine policies for mitigating inequalities generated by a range of financial leakages, among others, tax avoidance, illicit financial flows, trade misinvoicing and corruption. It will also address the kind of pre-emptive action necessary to head off new forms of financial leakages. The question of how to stem financial leakages and relate such action to other measures that will deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and, ultimately, achieve prosperity for all will be considered.

(d) Building resilience to multiple shocks affecting people and sustainable development

18. The world today is confronted with multiplicity of shocks rooted in volatile economic conditions, climate change and conflicts. They affect peoples' livelihoods, contribute to rising inequalities, reduce policy space, threaten political stability and undermine economic growth, prosperity and sustainability. These threats and their impacts are evolving, accompanied by increasing global recognition of the interactions of natural hazards and human-induced crises. International peace and security and development cannot be treated separately, given the power of prosperity to mitigate conflict and build resilience.

19. At the meeting, the Board will address how smart trade and accompanying policies, together with an inclusive multilateral approach, can promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption, bolster resilience and make development genuinely inclusive. It will tackle how trade and development can serve as a means of preventing conflict between and within countries, stabilize fragile and post-conflict countries, deal with illicit trade and generally protect people from shocks. The question of what can be done concretely to ensure that a holistic approach to prevention of and resilience to multiple shocks becomes the standard approach in international trade and development will be examined.

Documentation

TD/B/65(1)/2	New ways in which the United Nations could address the crisis of multilateralism and trade and its development machinery and what the contribution of UNCTAD would be
TD/B/65(1)/3	Industrial policies and productive capacity policies for a digital economy
TD/B/65(1)/4	Plugging financial leakages and mobilizing domestic and international resources to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals
TD/B/65(1)/5	Building resilience to multiple shocks affecting people and sustainable development

Item 3
General debate

20. The general debate is expected to take place on 6 and 7 June 2018. The texts of statements that are remitted to the secretariat will be reproduced and uploaded on the UNCTAD website in the language version(s) in which they are received.

21. In accordance with rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, speakers will be requested to limit their interventions as follows: 10 minutes for regional groups of member States, 7 minutes for representatives from member States and

3 minutes for other speakers. To this end, delegations might wish to consider making available the full text of their statements and concentrating on salient features during interventions in the general debate.

Item 4*
Annual report of the Secretary-General

22. Under this item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will provide information to the Board on the activities of UNCTAD, as well as on other issues, as necessary.

Item 5
Economic development in Africa

23. Under the item, the Board will consider the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2018: Migration and Structural Transformation*. The report examines how well-managed migration can help to address Africa's development challenges. The report identifies key actions that can be taken at national, regional and continental levels to overcome barriers to intra-African mobility. Safe and orderly migration, in addition to contributing to economic growth, can provide the impetus for structural transformation in Africa, and unlock the potential of migration to contribute to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063.

Documentation

UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2018	*Economic Development in Africa Report 2018: Migration and Structural Transformation*
TD/B/65(1)/8	Economic development in Africa: Migration and structural transformation

Item 6
Technology and innovation as effective means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

24. Under this item, the Board will consider the *Technology and Innovation Report 2018: Harnessing Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development*. Technology and innovation have a major role to play in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. The enormous economic, social and environmental challenges of the twenty-first century and the ambitious agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals coexist with rapidly developing frontier technologies and the dawning of a new industrial revolution. These frontier technologies offer great opportunities for the Sustainable Development Goals, but also bring important challenges.

25. Frontier technologies provide fundamentally new possibilities for economic development, environmental protection, education and governance, offering the potential for a world of greater prosperity while enhancing environmental sustainability. However, the rapid proliferation of new technologies brings new risks and threatens to overwhelm the capacity of policymakers and societies to adapt to them. Frontier technologies may open up large new technology divides that could underlie continued development and income gaps, and create challenges with net job destruction and issues related to managing vast new data streams and safeguarding privacy. The full implications for society are not yet clear.

26. To benefit from both existing and frontier technologies, countries must develop adaptive, flexible innovation systems, sound institutional and regulatory frameworks, capable firms, entrepreneurs and government officials and an engaged civil society. Policymakers will need to develop stronger innovation systems and capabilities, experiment with new forms of innovation and initiatives that can help to harness frontier technologies

* Agenda items 4 through 16 fall under the regular segment of the sixty-fifth session, part I.

(such as smart specialization strategies, incubators, accelerators and technology parks), ensure that technology transfer helps disseminate technologies and that intellectual property systems are appropriate, promote greater international collaboration on technology and innovation, and harness new forms of innovation financing, such as impact investment, crowdfunding and social impact bonds.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TIR/2018 and Overview	*Technology and Innovation Report 2018: Harnessing Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development*

Item 7
Investment for development

27. There is a global trend towards stronger involvement of Governments in pursuing their development goals. Industrial policies are a core instrument of development strategies, and investment policies are a key element of industrial policies. Against the background of a new industrial revolution and the move towards a digital economy, it is critical to review existing and new industrial development strategies and to analyse their interaction with investment policymaking in this new era of globalization.

28. The discussions will be informed by the latest UNCTAD research and policy analysis, which examine the challenges that countries at different development levels face in adapting their investment policies to the new industrial revolution and present policy options to make both industrial policies and investment policies work for sustainable development. The meeting will be an opportunity to hear a range of perspectives from eminent panellists. This will lead to an interactive dialogue among participants and panellists on the matter at hand, bringing in national, regional and interregional perspectives.

29. In addition, the meeting will provide an opportunity for a briefing by the secretariat on the latest developments regarding global trends in and policies on foreign direct investment.

Documentation

UNCTAD/WIR/2018 and Overview	*World Investment Report 2018: Investment and New Industrial Policies* (forthcoming)**

Item 8
Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries

30. Following the Board's consideration of UNCTAD work in support of small island developing States at its sixty-fourth session, under the item, the Board will have an opportunity to discuss UNCTAD work in support of landlocked developing countries. The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 (Vienna Programme of Action) was adopted by the second United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014. The aim of the Conference was to address the particular needs and challenges facing landlocked developing countries due to their geographical remoteness and socioeconomic underdevelopment. The Vienna Programme of Action identified a number of priorities for action by landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners.

31. The Board's deliberations will be supported by a report of the activities of the UNCTAD secretariat in support of the Vienna Programme of Action since its adoption. The report provides a brief assessment of recent economic performance of landlocked developing countries, together with the UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. It also includes policy conclusions and lessons learned. The report

** As of the date of publication of the present document.

notes that the recent slowdown in economic growth experienced by landlocked developing countries highlights the importance of additional efforts by landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners to strengthen implementation of the priorities for action, if the goals of the Vienna Programme of Action are to be achieved by the target date of 2024. The report further highlights the forthcoming midterm review as an opportunity to generate additional momentum towards the achievement of the goals of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Documentation

TD/B/65(1)/6	Activities carried out in support of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

Item 9
Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

32. The report of the second session of Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be before the Board for its consideration.

Documentation

TD/B/EDE/2/4	Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy on its second session

Item 10
Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

33. Under the item, the Board will consider a progress report of the secretariat on UNCTAD-wide implementation activities under the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. The report provides a brief assessment of the recent economic performance of the least developed countries together with the UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action. It also includes policy conclusions and lessons learned.

Documentation

TD/B/65(1)/7	Activities carried out in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

Item 11
Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

34. The secretariat will report back on implementation of the decisions taken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fourteenth session in Nairobi.

Item 12
UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

35. In its resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly stressed the need to make maximum use of existing United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of reviewing the implementation

of commitments made within the United Nations system in key areas of development. In this regard, the General Assembly invited the Trade and Development Board to contribute, within its mandate, to the implementation and to the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items.

36. The Nairobi Maafikiano (TD/519/Add.2), in paragraph 10, calls on UNCTAD to "contribute to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and, as appropriate, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among other relevant international agreements and outcomes".

37. The Board is expected to respond to the request addressed to it by the General Assembly in paragraph 27 (a) of resolution 57/270 B on the basis of a report by the UNCTAD secretariat.

In-session documentation

Item 13
Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2017–2018 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2018

38. In accordance with Trade and Development Board decision 466 (XLVII), the Chair of the Advisory Body will inform the Board on the activities of the Advisory Body and on the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. The Board will be invited to appoint members of the Advisory Body for 2018, on the basis of the recommendations of the regional groups.

(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

39. The UNCTAD secretariat has received no applications requesting inclusion in the list provided for in rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board. A list of the approved intergovernmental organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/11.

(c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

40. The UNCTAD secretariat has received five applications requesting inclusion in the list provided for in rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board. A list of the approved non-governmental organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/22.

Documentation

TD/B/65(1)/R.1	Application from Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/65(1)/R.2	Application from the European Business Council for Africa and the Mediterranean Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/65(1)/R.3	Application from the Stichting Fair Trade Advocacy Office Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/65(1)/R.4	Application from the Terrawatt Initiative Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Documentation

TD/B/65(1)/R.5	Application from the Trade and Economic Development Council Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

41. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2018 and for 2019.

In-session documentation

(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2018

42. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2018 on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

In-session documentation

(f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

43. The Board will have before it, as appropriate, the updated membership list of UNCTAD and the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/INF.235	Membership of UNCTAD and membership of the Trade and Development Board

(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

44. The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 14
Provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh executive session of the Trade and Development Board

45. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh executive session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat.

In-session documentation

Item 15
Other business

Item 16
Adoption of the report

46. The report of the Board to the General Assembly will contain negotiated outcomes, as well as other decisions that the Board may decide to adopt.